

REMARKS

By amendment above, claims 1-14 originally presented in this application have been canceled and replaced by new claims 15-24. Basis for the new claims can be found on pages 28-44 of the specification and in the claims as filed. More specifically, support for claim 15 can be found in claims 1 and 4 and in the specification on pages 28, 29, 31 and 32. Support for new claim 16 can be found in previous claim 3. Basis for new claim 17 can be found in previous claim 8, and basis for new claim 18 can be found in previous claim 2. New claims 19-21 are supported by previous claims 9-11, respectively. Support for new claim 22 is found in previous claim 12. Support for new claims 23 and 24 can be found in previous claims 13 and 14.

Previous claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded by Applicants as their invention. Claims 1-13 and 10 were said to be indefinite because there was no nexus between the preamble and the claim steps. Claims 1-3 also were said to be indefinite because the meaning of the phrase "said fragment" in each of the claims was unclear. Finally, claim 10 was said to be indefinite because the meaning of "generating fragment chains ..." was unclear. Applicants respectfully submit that each of

these rejections has been obviated by the amendments to the claims set forth above.

The outstanding Office Action set forth three grounds of rejection based upon prior art. these rejections focused on claims 1 and 9-12. The examiner acknowledged that claims 2-8 and 13-14 appeared allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections set forth above based on Section 112 of the patent statute.

New independent claim 15 recites a method of synthesizing a nucleic acid molecule that contains information that represents computer-readable alphanumeric code. The method of claim 15 is essentially the embodiment that was defined by previous claim 4, indicated by the examiner to contain allowable subject matter. As each of claims 16-24 refers, directly or indirectly back to claim 15, applicants submit that these claims also are allowable. None of the references cited by the examiner discloses or suggests storing computer readable alphanumeric information in a nucleic acid molecule.

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth above that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance.

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